PCT WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : A61K 31/505

A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 94/28902

(43) International Publication Date: 22 December 1994 (22.12.94)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP94/01580

(22) International Filing Date: 13 May 1994 (13.05.94)

(30) Priority Data:
9311920.4 9 June 1993 (09.06.93) GB

(71) Applicant *(for GB only)*: PFIZER LIMITED [GB/GB]; Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB).

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except GB US)*: PFIZER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, N.V./S.A. [IE/IE]; Alexandra House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin (IE).

(71) Applicant *(for JP only)*: PFIZER INC. [US/US]; 235 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017 (US).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: ELLIS, Peter [GB/GB]; Pfizer Central Research, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB). TERRETT, Nicholas, Kenneth [GB/GB]; Pfizer Central Research, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB).

(74) Agents: MOORE, James, William et al.; Pfizer Limited, European Patent Dept., Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB).

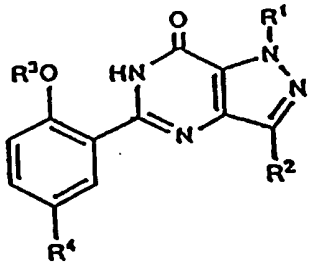
(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, CZ, FI, HU, JP, KR, NO, NZ, PL, RU, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: PYRAZOLOPYRIMIDINONES FOR THE TREATMENT OF IMPOTENCE

(57) Abstract

The use of a compound of formula (I) wherein R^1 is H; C_1-C_3 alkyl; C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl; or C_3-C_5 cycloalkyl; R^2 is H; optionally substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl; C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl; or C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl; R^3 is optionally substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl; C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkyl; C_3-C_5 cycloalkyl; C_3-C_6 alkenyl; or C_3-C_6 alkynyl; R^4 is optionally substituted C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_2-C_4 alkanoyl, (hydroxy)C_2-C_4 alkyl or (C_2-C_3 alkoxy)C_1-C_2 alkyl; $CONR^5R^6$; CO_2R^7; halo; NR^5R^6; $NHSO_2NR^5R^6$; $NHSO_2R^8$; $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$; or phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl or triazolyl any of which is optionally substituted with methyl; R^5 and R^6 are each independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino, 4-N(R^{11})-piperazinyl or imidazolyl group; R^7 is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; R^8 is optionally substituted C_1-C_3 alkyl; R^9 and R^{10} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino or 4-N(R^{12})-piperazinyl group; R^{11} is H; optionally substituted C_1-C_3 alkyl; (hydroxy)C_2-C_3 alkyl; or C_1-C_4 alkanoyl; R^{12} is H; optionally substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl; $CONR^{13}R^{14}$; $CSNR^{13}R^{14}$; or $C(NH)NR^{13}R^{14}$; and R?13? and R^{14} are each independently H; C_1-C_4 alkyl; or substituted C_2-C_4 alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition containing either entity, for the manufacture of a medicament for the curative or prophylactic treatment of erectile dysfunction in a male animal, including man; a pharmaceutical composition for said treatment; and a method of said treatment of said male animal with said pharmaceutical composition or with said either entity.



(I)

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria
AU	Australia
BB	Barbados
BE	Belgium
BF	Burkina Faso
BG	Bulgaria
BJ	Benin
BR	Brazil
BY	Belarus
CA	Canada
CF	Central African Republic
CG	Congo
CH	Switzerland
CI	Côte d'Ivoire
CM	Cameroon
CN	China
CS	Czechoslovakia
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
GA	Gabon
GB	United Kingdom
GE	Georgia
GN	Guinea
GR	Greece
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
JP	Japan
KE	Kenya
KG	Kyrgystan
KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
KR	Republic of Korea
KZ	Kazakhstan
LI	Liechtenstein
LK	Sri Lanka
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MC	Monaco
MD	Republic of Moldova
MG	Madagascar
ML	Mali
MN	Mongolia
MR	Mauritania
MW	Malawi
NE	Niger
NL	Netherlands
NO	Norway
NZ	New Zealand
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
RU	Russian Federation
SD	Sudan
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
SN	Senegal
TD	Chad
TG	Togo
TJ	Tajikistan
TT	Trinidad and Tobago
UA	Ukraine
US	United States of America
UZ	Uzbekistan
VN	Viet Nam

PYRAZOLOPYRIMIDINONES FOR THE TREATMENT OF IMPOTENCE

This invention relates to the use of a series of pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-ones for the treatment of impotence.

Impotence can be defined literally as a lack of power, in the male, to copulate and may involve an inability to achieve penile erection or ejaculation, or both. More specifically, erectile impotence or dysfunction may be defined as an inability to obtain or sustain an erection adequate for intercourse. Its prevalence is claimed to be between 2 and 7% of the human male population, increasing with age, up to 50 years, and between 18 and 75% between 55 and 80 years of age. In the USA alone, for example, it has been estimated that there are up to 10 million impotent males, with the majority suffering from problems of organic rather than of psychogenic origin.

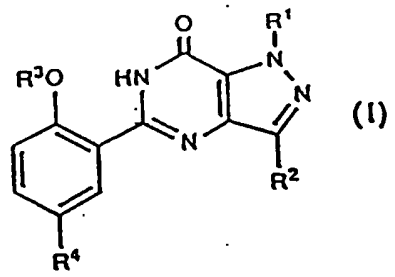
Reports of well-controlled clinical trials in man are few and the efficacy of orally administered drugs is low. Although many different drugs have been shown to induce penile erection, they are only effective after direct injection into the penis, e.g. intraurethrally or intracavernosally (i.c.), and are not approved for erectile dysfunction. Current medical treatment is based on the i.c injection of vasoactive substances and good results have been claimed with phenoxybenzamine, phentolamine, papaverine and prostaglandin E_1, either alone or in combination; however, pain, priapism and fibrosis of the penis are associated with the i.c. administration of some of these agents. Potassium channel openers (KCO) and vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP) have also been shown to be active i.c., but cost and stability issues could limit development of the latter. An alternative to the i.c. route is the use of glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) patch s applied to the penis, which has been

shown to be effective but produces side-effects in both patient and partner.

As a general alternative to pharmacological intervention, a variety of penile prostheses has been used to assist achievement of an erection. The short term success rate is good, but problems with infection and ischaemia, especially in diabetic men, make this type of treatment a final option rather than first-line therapy.

The compounds of the invention are potent inhibitors of cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate phosphodiesterases (cGMP PDEs) in contrast to their inhibition of cyclic adenosine 3',5'-monophosphate phosphodiesterases (cAMP PDEs). This selective enzyme inhibition leads to elevated cGMP levels which, in turn, provides the basis for the utilities already disclosed for the said compounds in EP-A-0463756 and EP-A-0526004, namely in the treatment of stable, unstable and variant (Prinzmetal) angina, hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, congestive heart failure, atherosclerosis, conditions of reduced blood vessel patency e.g. post-percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (post-PTCA), peripheral vascular disease, stroke, bronchitis, allergic asthma, chronic asthma, allergic rhinitis, glaucoma, and diseases characterised by disorders of gut motility, e.g. irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

Unexpectedly, it has now been found that these disclosed compounds are useful in the treatment of erectile dysfunction. Furthermore the compounds may be administered orally, thereby obviating the disadvantages associated with i.c. administration. Thus the present invention concerns the use of a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 is H; C_1-C_3 alkyl; C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl; or C_3-C_5 cycloalkyl;
R^2 is H; C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl; C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl; or C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl;
R^3 is C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl; C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkyl; C_3-C_5 cycloalkyl; C_3-C_6 alkenyl; or C_3-C_6 alkynyl;
R^4 is C_1-C_4 alkyl optionally substituted with OH, NR^5R^6, CN, $CONR^5R^6$ or CO_2R^7; C_2-C_4 alkenyl optionally substituted with CN, $CONR^5R^6$ or CO_2R^7; C_2-C_4 alkanoyl optionally substituted with NR^5R^6; (hydroxy)C_2-C_4 alkyl optionally substituted with NR^5R^6; (C_2-C_3 alkoxy)C_1-C_2 alkyl optionally substituted with OH or NR^5R^6; $CONR^5R^6$; CO_2R^7; halo; NR^5R^6; $NHSO_2NR^5R^6$; $NHSO_2R^8$; $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$; or phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl or triazolyl any of which is optionally substituted with methyl;
R^5 and R^6 are each independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino, 4-N(R^{11})-piperazinyl or imidazolyl group wherein said group is optionally substituted with methyl or OH;

R^7 is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^8 is C_1-C_3 alkyl optionally substituted with NR^5R^6;

R^9 and R^{10} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino or 4-$N(R^{12})$-piperazinyl group wherein said group is optionally substituted with C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_3 alkoxy, $NR^{13}R^{14}$ or $CONR^{13}R^{14}$;

R^{11} is H; C_1-C_3 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl; (hydroxy)C_2-C_3 alkyl; or C_1-C_4 alkanoyl;

R^{12} is H; C_1-C_6 alkyl; (C_1-C_3 alkoxy)C_2-C_6 alkyl; (hydroxy)C_2-C_6 alkyl; ($R^{13}R^{14}N$)C_2-C_6 alkyl; ($R^{13}R^{14}NOC$)C_1-C_6 alkyl; $CONR^{13}R^{14}$; $CSNR^{13}R^{14}$; or $C(NH)NR^{13}R^{14}$;

and R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently H; C_1-C_4 alkyl; (C_1-C_3 alkoxy)C_2-C_4 alkyl; or (hydroxy)C_2-C_4 alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition containing either entity, for the manufacture of a medicament for the curative or prophylactic treatment of erectile dysfunction in a male animal, including man.

In the above definition, unless otherwise indicated, alkyl groups having three or more carbon atoms, alkenyl and alkynyl groups having four or more carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having three carbon atoms and alkanoyl groups having four carbon atoms may be straight chain or branched chain. Halo means fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo.

The compounds of formula (I) may contain one or more asymmetric centres and thus they can exist as enantiomers or diastereoisomers. Furthermore, certain compounds of formula (I) which contain alkenyl groups

may exist as cis-isomers or trans-isomers. In each instance, the invention includes both mixtures and separate individual isomers.

The compounds of formula (I) may also exist in tautomeric forms and the invention includes both mixtures and separate individual tautomers.

The pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (I) which contain a basic centre are, for example, non-toxic acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids such as hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulphuric and phosphoric acid, with organo-carboxylic acids, or with organo-sulphonic acids. Compounds of formula (I) can also provide pharmaceutically acceptable metal salts, in particular non-toxic alkali metal salts, with bases. Examples include the sodium and potassium salts.

A preferred group of compounds of formula (I) is that wherein R^1 is H, methyl or ethyl; R^2 is C_1-C_3 alkyl; R^3 is C_2-C_3 alkyl or allyl; R^4 is C_1-C_2 alkyl optionally substituted with OH, NR^5R^6, CN, $CONR^5R^6$ or CO_2R^7; acetyl optionally substituted with NR^5R^6; hydroxyethyl optionally substituted with NR^5R^6; ethoxymethyl optionally substituted with OH or NR^5R^6; CH=CHCN; $CH=CHCONR^5R^6$; $CH=CHCO_2R^7$; $CONR^5R^6$; CO_2H; Br; NR^5R^6; $NHSO_2NR^5R^6$; $NHSO_2R^8$; $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$; or pyridyl or imidazolyl either of which is optionally substituted with methyl; R^5 and R^6 are each independently H, methyl or ethyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino, morpholino, 4-$N(R^{11})$-piperazinyl or imidazolyl group wherein said group is optionally substituted with methyl or OH; R^7 is H or t-butyl; R^8 is methyl or $CH_2CH_2CH_2NR^5R^6$; R^9 and R^{10} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino or 4-$N(R^{12})$-piperazinyl group wherein said group is optionally substituted with $NR^{13}R^{14}$ or $CONR^{13}R^{14}$; R^{11} is H, methyl, benzyl, 2-

hydroxyethyl or acetyl; R^{12} is H, C_1-C_3 alkyl, (hydroxy)C_2-C_3 alkyl, $CSNR^{13}R^{14}$ or $C(NH)NR^{13}R^{14}$; and R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently H or methyl.

A more preferred group of compounds of formula (I) is that wherein R^1 is methyl or ethyl; R^2 is C_1-C_3 alkyl; R^3 is ethyl, n-propyl or allyl; R^4 is $CH_2NR^5R^6$, $COCH_2NR^5R^6$, $CH(OH)CH_2NR^5R^6$, $CH_2OCH_2CH_3$, $CH_2OCH_2CH_2OH$, $CH_2OCH_2CH_2NR^5R^6$, $CH{=}CHCON(CH_3)_2$, $CH{=}CHCO_2R^7$, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2H, Br, $NHSO_2NR^5R^6$, $NHSO_2CH_2CH_2CH_2NR^5R^6$, $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, 2-pyridyl, 1-imidazolyl or 1-methyl-2-imidazolyl; R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino, 4-hydroxypiperidino, morpholino, 4-$N(R^{11})$-piperazinyl or 2-methyl-1-imidazolyl group; R^7 is H or t-butyl; R^9 and R^{10} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-carbamoylpiperidino or 4-$N(R^{12})$-piperazinyl group; R^{11} is H, methyl, benzyl, 2-hydroxyethyl or acetyl; and R^{12} is H, C_1-C_3 alkyl, 2-hydroxyethyl or $CSNH_2$.

A particularly preferred group of compounds of formula (I) is that wherein R^1 is methyl or ethyl; R^2 is n-propyl; R^3 is ethyl, n-propyl or allyl; R^4 is $COCH_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$ or 1-methyl-2-imidazolyl; R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a morpholino or 4-$N(R^{11})$-piperazinyl group; R^9 and R^{10} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-$N(R^{12})$-piperazinyl group; R^{11} is methyl or acetyl; and R^{12} is H, methyl, 2-propyl or 2-hydroxyethyl.

Especially preferred individual compounds of the invention include:

5-(2-ethoxy-5-morpholinoacetylphenyl)-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;

5-(5-morpholinoacetyl-2-n-propoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;

5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)-phenyl]-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;

5-[2-allyloxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)-phenyl]-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;

5-{2-ethoxy-5-[4-(2-propyl)-1-piperazinyl-sulphonyl]phenyl}-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;

5-{2-ethoxy-5-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl-sulphonyl]phenyl}-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;

5-{5-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinylsulphonyl]-2-n-propoxyphenyl}-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;

5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylcarbonyl)-phenyl]-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one;

and 5-[2-ethoxy-5-(1-methyl-2-imidazolyl)phenyl]-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one.

The compounds of formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, processes for the preparation thereof, in vitro test methods for determining the cGMP PDE and cAMP PDE inhibitory activities thereof, pharmaceutical compositions thereof and routes of administration for human use, are described in EP-A-0463756 and EP-A-0526004.

A preliminary investigation was carried out with a view to isolating and characterising the cyclic nucleotide PDEs of human corpus cavernosum, relaxation of which leads to penile erection. Studies of substrate specificity, response to activators and inhibitor sensitivity, have demonstrated that human corpus cavernosum contains thre distinct PDE enzymes.

Methods

Fresh frozen human penis was obtained from IIAM (Pennsylvania). Tissue was thawed at room temperature, the corpus cavernosum was dissected from the penis to yield approximately 2-4 g of tissue and the following isolation protocol was followed. Tissue was coarsely chopped in ice-cold isotonic buffer (35 ml) containing 250mM sucrose, 1mM EDTA, 0.5mM PMSF and 20mM HEPES, pH 7.2, and the mixture subjected to brief (1 min.) treatment with a Silversen mixer/emulsifier. Homogenates were prepared using homogeniser tubes with teflon pestles and soluble fraction was prepared by centrifugation at 100,000 x g for 60 min. at 4°C. 10 ml of high speed supernatant was applied to a Pharmacia Mono Q anion exchange column (1 ml bed volume) equilibrated with buffer containing 1mM EDTA, 0.5 mM PMSF and 20mM HEPES, pH 7.2 (chromatography buffer). The column was then washed with 5 bed volumes of chromatography buffer, after which PDEs were eluted using a continuous gradient of 0-500mM NaCl (total volume 35 ml) and 1 ml fractions collected.

Column fractions were assayed for PDE activity using 500nM cGMP or 500nM cAMP as substrate. cAMP PDE activity was also determined in the presence of 1μM unlabelled cGMP and the PDE activity of selected fractions was determined in the presence of 10mM $CaCl_2$ and 10 units/ml bovine brain calmodulin. Appropriate fractions were pooled and stored at 4°C during the course of the study.

Inhibition studies were performed using a substrate concentration of 500nM throughout. All inhibitors were dissolved in DMSO and concentration-response curves were constructed over the range 3 x 10^{-10} to 1 x 10^{-4}M in half log increments. IC_{50} values were calculated using the sigmoidal curve fitting algorithm of biostat.

Results

Human corpus cavernosum soluble PDEs were separated into three distinct fractions of activity. The first, fraction I, (designated by order of elution) represents the major PDE present and is highly selective for cGMP as substrate. This fraction was found to be insensitive to stimulation by calcium/calmodulin and was classified as PDE_V. Fraction II hydrolyses cGMP and cAMP, with the latter activity being stimulated in the presence of cGMP, and is classified as PDE_{II}, whilst fraction III is cAMP selective and this activity is inhibited in the presence of cGMP, consistent with PDE_{III} activity.

In order to further characterise the PDE isoenzymes present in the tissue, studies were performed using a variety of inhibitors. Inhibitor studies with fractions I and II were performed using cGMP as substrate, whilst fraction III studies utilised cAMP. These studies confirmed that fraction I corresponds to PDE_V, whilst fraction III was clearly identified as PDE_{III}; fraction II (PDE_{II}) was relatively insensitive to all the inhibitors tested.

In summary, the above investigation identified three PDE isoenzymes in human corpus cavernosum tissue. The predominant PDE is the cGMP-specific PDE_V, whilst cGMP-stimulated cAMP PDE_{II} and cGMP-inhibited cAMP PDE_{III} are also present.

The compounds of the invention have been tested in vitro and found to be potent and selective inhibitors of the cGMP-specific PDE_V. For example, one of the especially preferred compounds of the invention has an IC_{50} = 6.8 nM v. the PDE_V enzyme, but demonstrates only weak inhibitory activity against the PDE_{II} and PDE_{III} enzymes with IC_{50} = >100 μM and 34 μM respectively. Thus relaxation of the corpus cavernosum tissue and

consequent penile erection is presumably mediated by elevation of cGMP levels in th said tissue, by virtue of the PDE inhibitory profile of the compounds of the invention.

Furthermore, none of the compounds of the invention tested in rat and dog, both intravenously (i.v.) and orally (p.o.) at up to 3 mg/Kg, has shown any overt sign of adverse acute toxicity. In mouse, no deaths occurred after doses of up to 100 mg/Kg i.v.. Certain especially preferred compounds showed no toxic effects on chronic p.o. administration to rat at up to 10 mg/Kg and to dog at up to 20 mg/Kg.

In man, certain especially preferred compounds have been tested orally in both single dose and multiple dose volunteer studies. Moreover, patient studies conducted thus far have confirmed that one of the especially preferred compounds induces penile erection in impotent males.

Although the compounds of the invention are envisaged primarily for the treatment of erectile dysfunction or male sexual dysfunction, they may also be useful for the treatment of female sexual dysfunction including orgasmic dysfunction related to clitoral disturbances.

Generally, in man, oral administration of the compounds of the invention is the preferred route, being the most convenient and avoiding the disadvantages associated with i.c. administration. A preferred dosing regimen for a typical man is 5 to 75 mg of compound three times daily. In circumstances where the recipient suffers from a swallowing disorder or from impairment of drug absorption after oral administration, the drug may be administered parenterally, e.g. sublingually or buccally.

For veterinary use, a compound of formula (I) or a non-toxic salt thereof is administered as a suitably acceptable formulation in accordance with

normal veterinary practice and the veterinary surgeon will determine the dosing regimen and route of administration which will be most appropriate for a particular male animal.

Thus the invention includes a pharmaceutical composition for the curative or prophylactic treatment of erectile dysfunction in a male animal, including man, comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

There is further provided a process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the curative or prophylactic treatment of erectile dysfunction in a male animal, including man, comprising formulating a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

The invention also provides a method of treating a male animal, including man, to cure or prevent erectile dysfunction which comprises treating said male animal with an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition containing either entity.

In a further aspect, the invention includes the use of a cGMP PDE inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition containing either entity, for the treatment of erectile dysfunction in a male animal, including man.

The invention also includes a method of treating a male animal, including man, to cure or prevent erectile dysfunction, which comprises treating said male animal with an effective amount of a cGMP PDE inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition containing either entity.

Moreover, the invention includes the use of a cGMP PDE inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt